

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 13, and 14 for various minor informalities, and rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,748) in view of Ho et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,254). The Examiner objected to claims 2-5 and 12-15 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner allowed claims 6-10 and 16.

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application. Applicant also amends claims 2-7, 9, and 12-15 to improve form. Claims 2-10 and 12-16 are pending.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 13, and 14 for various minor informalities. Applicant has amended these claims to address the informalities identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 13, and 14.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yin et al. in view of Ho et al. Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 11, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

Because claims 2, 4, 5, 12, 14, and 15 have been amended to independent form, all pending claims should be in condition for immediate allowance by the Examiner and such allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

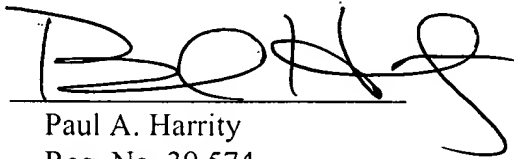
If the Examiner does not believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY SNYDER, L.L.P.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Harrity", written over a horizontal line.

Paul A. Harrity
Reg. No. 39,574

Date: March 17, 2006

11350 Random Hills Road
Suite 600
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: 571-432-0800
Facsimile: 571-432-0808